

**Virginia Latino Advisory Board
Minutes
Friday,
December 16, 2011 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Virginia War Memorial
621 S. Belvidere Street
Richmond, Virginia 23220**

Action items:

Michel will prepare a Doodle for the next board meeting.

Kris will format the recommendations for the Governor, write a letter to the Governor to summarize the recommendations, and send both to Duane and Michel. Duane will send them to the Board. Duane will take care of delivering the recommendations to the Governor.

Members Present: Deborah Muñoz, Carmen Williams, Elin Doval, Desi Arnaiz, Alex Vanegas, Esteban Nieto, Rosaura Aguerreberre, Charlotte Fritts, Frederico Morales, Aleyda Kasten, Jorge Lozano, Kris Tilley-Lubbs, Cecilia Martínez, Jason Miyares, Michel Zajur

Members Absent: Flux Neo, Víctor Gómez, Gabe Rojas, Rene Cabral-Daniels, Laura Ramírez Drain, Omar Rashid

Ex-Officio Members Present: Jimmy Rhee, Mirta Martin

Liaison with Governor's Office: Duane Stafford

Guests Present: Demas Boudreau

Welcome and opening remarks: Michel called meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Members introduced themselves.

Since there was a quorum, the Board was able to approve all the minutes from February 2, 2010, through October 7, 2011. In each instance, the minutes were unanimously approved.

July 30, 2010: Motion made by Elin, seconded by Charlotte.

October 6, 2010: Motion made by Michel, seconded by Debbie.

February 18, 2011: Motion made by Elin, seconded by Carmen.

April 29, 2011: Motion made by Jorge, seconded by Charlotte.

July 29, 2011: Motion made by Jorge, seconded by Carmen.

October 7, 2011: Motion made by Elin, seconded by Carmen.

Michel briefly summarized the goals of VLAB for 2011. At the July meeting, we formed three different working groups to address the following issues:

- International Trade
- Small Business
- Education/Workforce Development

Discussion ensued regarding the following:

- Whether specific universities should be named as technological strength. Decision: better not to mention any specific university.
- Whether a specific place should be mentioned for the location of a trade office. Based on Jimmy's recommendation, a decision was made not to mention a specific location prior to further research regarding the best place for a trade office. At this time, the recommendation should be made as is, with the understanding that if the Governor chooses to accept the recommendation, further research will be conducted to recommend a location. Jimmy referred to a meeting held at the Patrick Henry Building on December 7. A letter was drafted regarding the possibility of a trade mission to Latin America. Jimmy suggests that VLAB send a letter with specific details about a trade mission. For example, the letter should recommend that the Governor visit a certain place because of certain reasons. A question was posed: Is the emphasis on exporting or importing and establishing foreign companies in Virginia? The final decision was that recommendation be sent without specifics.

The Board approved the edited recommendations for the Governor.

News:

Jorge: The Governor of Puebla is willing to send an invitation to the Governor of Virginia to come to Mexico in May 2012 for the celebration of the victory of the Mexican army against French intervention on the Battle of the Cinco de Mayo. This will provide an opportunity for economic development between the two states.

Jimmy: Reminder that venture capitalist organizations—investment issue, not trade issue.

Debbie: Shared property/human rights issue in Fairfax regarding the eviction of residents without inspection in a mobile home community during a flood. County board of supervisors provided false information regarding FEMA.

Michel: Google workshops January 18 in Fairfax. The Google partner will give out free websites and domains. Another workshop will take place on January 24 in Richmond.

The Foundation of the Chamber is working with NASA and the Science Museum to do an interview with a Latino astronaut for Univision, televised from the Science Museum of Richmond.

Kris: working on Memorandum of Understanding between the Universidad Autónoma de Aguascalientes and Virginia Tech. This MOU will include interdisciplinary, transnational research on human rights.

Next Meeting Date: Michel will set up a Doodle for the next meeting.

Adjournment: Michel adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Tilley-Lubbs